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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

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FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

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AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL LAHORE
USLO PEKING
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XF, PK, IN, BG, AF, UR, US, CH
SUBJ: BHUTTO'S GOVERNMENT DEFENDS ITS FOREIGN POLICY BEFORE PARLIAMENT

SUMMARY: OPENING PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON GOP FOREIGN POLICY, MIN OF STATE AZIZ AHMED CLAIMED OUTSTANDING SUCCESSES FOR BHUTTO GOVERNMENT IN RECOVERY FROM 1971 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAR, OBTAINING FOREIGN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AND RAISING

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PAKISTAN'S IMAGE ABROAD. HE SAW GOP RELATIONS WITH SUPERPOWERS AND CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES AS IMPROVED AND MORE AID FORTHCOMING. ALSO HOPED BE ABLE WRITE OFF EAST PAKISTAN'S PORTION OF DEBT AND RESCHEDULE REMAINDER. CHINA PRAISED FOR POLITICAL SUPPORT AND AID. RELATIONS WITH MUSLIM WORLD, ESPECIALLY RCD COUNTRIES, ARABS AND GULF STATES ALSO EXTOLLED. IN ONLY REFERENCE TO AFGHANISTAN, AHMED SAID GOP WORKING FOR CONTINUED FRATERNAL RELATIONS ALTHOUGH WOULD NOT TOLERATE INTERNAL INTERFERENCE. EXUDING SELF-SATISFACTION AND OPTIMISM, AHMED CLAIMED GOP DIPLOMACY UNDER BHUTTO'S LEADERSHIP HAD SUCCEEDED IN OVERCOMING CONSEQUENCES OF 1971 WAR AND PROTECTING GOP STAND ON KASHMIR. HE BELIEVED BOTH PAK-ISTAN AND INDIA WANTED END TO CONFRONTATION BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SOVIET MILITARY SUPPLY. THREE-WAY REPATRIATION UNDER UNHCR PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. AHMED INDICATED GOP HAD REASON TO EXPECT BDG WOULD DROP DEMAND FOR WAR CRIMES TRIALS, INSINUATING THAT MOVE TO BREAK GOP-BDG IMPASSE MIGHT BE NEAR AT HAND. END SUMMARY.

1. AT OUTSET OF THREE-DAY COMBINED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND SENATE DEBATE ON FOREIGN POLICY, AZIZ AHMED, MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PRESENTED GOVERNMENT CASE FOR A POLICY WHICH, HE CLAIMED, HAS RESTORED WEST PAKISTAN'S BORDERS, SECURED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO SPUR DEVELOPMENT, AND RAISED PAKISTAN'S IMAGE ABROAD. THEME OF AHMED'S PRESENTATION WAS THE CONTRAST BETWEEN DARK DAYS OF 1971 AND PAKISTAN'S PRESENT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RECOVERY, WITH EMPHASIS ON UNIQUE AND SKILLFUL ROLE PLAYED BY PRIMIN BHUTTO. IT WAS ALSO A CAREFUL STATEMENT OF PAK PUBLIC POSITION ON MAJOR ISSUES STILL OUTSTANDING WITH GOI AND BDG: POW TRIALS, KASHMIR, AND SOME REFERENCE TO DIVISION OF FOREIGN DEBT RESPONSIBILITIES.

2. AHMED IDENTIFIED THREE IMPERATIVES OF GOP FOREIGN POLICY: NEED TO INSURE SECURITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY; QUEST FOR "JUSTICE" IN DISPUTES WITH INDIA, PARTICULARLY RE KASHMIR; AND NEED FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. THESE REQUIRED GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

SUPERPOWERS, RECONCILIATION BETWEEN NATIONS OF SUB-CONTINENT, MAINTAINING FRATERNAL RELATIONS WITH MUSLIM COUNTRIES (INCLUDING AFGHANISTAN), AND CLOSER RELATIONS WITH NATIONS OF THIRD WORLD.

3. ON SUBJECT OF SECURITY AHMED LAUDED GOP SUCCESSES IN REVERSING CONSEQUENCES OF 1971 BE SECURING RETURN OF TERRITORY UNDER INDIAN OCCUPATION AND OF PAK POW'S.

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TURNING TO PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH MAJOR POWERS, HE CITED CHINA AS PAKISTAN'S MOST RELIABLE SUPPORTER. LAST YEAR, HE SAID, PEKING WROTE OFF $110 MILLION LOAN AND GRANTED NEW LOAN OF $250 MILLION, WITH REPAYMENT GRACE PERIOD FOR UP TO 30 YEARS. HE NOTED THAT CHINA HAD EXTENDED POLITICAL SUPPORT TO ISLAMABAD "ON ALL ISSUES" INCLUDING REPATRIATION OF POW'S AND ADMISSION OF BANG-LADESH TO UN.

4. RELATIONS WITH US HAD IMPROVED SINCE 1971 WHEN AID WAS FROZEN AND EMBARGO IMPOSED ON MILITARY SPARE PARTS AND NON-LETHAL WEAPONS, AHMED SAID. THESE HAD SINCE BEEN REMOVED AND DURING BHUTTO'S US VISIT PRESI-DENT NIXON HAD MADE STRONG STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF PAKISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, TERMING THEM "A CORNERSTONE" AND "A GUIDING PRINCIPLE" OF US FOREIGN POLICY. AHMED MENTIONED THE $330 MILLION US ECONOMIC AID EXTENDED SINCE BHUTTO CAME TO POWER, FLOOD ASSISTANCE AND EXPECTATIONS OF MORE YET TO COME.

5. RUSSIA, AHMED SAID, HAD BEEN ALIENATED BY YAHYA REGIME'S POLICIES, AND PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT HAD STRIVEN TO RESTORE CORDIALITY OF THE EARLY 1960S: "ALTHOUGH RELATIONS ARE NOT AS GOOD AS PAKISTAN WOULD WISH THEM TO BE, ALL THE SAME THERE IS A STRONG DESIRE ON BOTH SIDES TO IMPROVE THEM." HE POINTED TO RUSSIA'S DECISION TO WRITE OFF EAST PAKISTAN PORTION OF COUNTRY'S DEBT, TO RESCHEDULE WEST PAKISTAN PORTION, AND TO ASSIST IN MAJOR ECONOMIC PROJECT-A STEEL MILL.

6. REFERRING TO CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES, AHMED SAID THAT AID FROZEN AS RESULT OF YAHYA'S UNILATERAL MORATORIUM ON REPAYMENTS HAD BEEN UNFROZEN AND THAT EAST PAKISTAN
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PORTION WOULD BE WRITTEN OFF FROM JUNE NEXT YEAR.

7. TURNING TO PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH MUSLIM WORLD, AHMED MADE BRIEF, UNDERPLAYED REFERENCE TO AFGHANISTAN, CLAIMING THAT GOP WAS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE WORKING FOR CLOSE FRATERNAL RELATIONS WITH KABUL BUT "WOULD NOT TOLERATE ANY INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS FROM ANY COUNTRY UNDER ANY PRETEXT WHATSOEVER." HE THEN TRACED LONG HISTORY OF PAK SUPPORT TO ARABS, NOTED NEW ATTENTION PAID TO NEIGHBORING GULF STATES, AND REMINDED HOUSE THAT ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE WOULD BE HELD IN LAHORE NEXT MONTH. HE REFERRED TO ESPECIALLY CLOSE TIES TO TURKEY AND TO "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH IRAN.
AS FURTHER EVIDENCE STRENGTHENED GOP TIES TO MUSLIM WORLD

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HE SAID RELATIONS WITH IRAQ HAD BEEN RESTORED AND HOPED THEY
WOULD IMPROVE. BECAUSE OF VIGOROUS POLICY OF PERSONAL
DIPLOMACY, INVOLVING EXTENSIVE TRAVEL, BHUTTO HAS RAISED
PAKISTAN TO A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THIRD WORLD AND
SAFEGUARDED PAK INTEREST IN UN FORUMS.

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ACTION NEA-12

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FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
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8. AHMED SPENT OVER ONE HOUR DESCRIBING GOP ATTEMPTS
TO SETTLE OUTSTWNDING PROBLEMS WITH INDIA AND BANGLADESH.
LABORIOUSLY TRACING HISTORY OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOI

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EVEN BEFORE SIMLA, HE CLAIMED GOP HAD CONSISTENTLY FOLLOWED POLICY OF INSISTING UPON BEING TREATED AS AN EQUAL AND REFUSING TO BARGAIN OVER ESSENTIALS--RETURN OF TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY INDIAN MILITARY, UNCONDITIONAL REPATRIATION POWS AND SELF-DETERMINATION FOR KASHMIR.
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GOP STYLE OF NEGOTIATIONS, HE SAID, WAS TO HOLD FAST ON EACH POINT AND DEFUSE THE BITE OF INDIAN PRESSURE BY WILLINGNESS TO WAIT IT OUT. LINE OF CONTROL IN KASHMIR WAS CEASEFIRE LINE AND NOT INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY, HE CLAIMED, QUOTING SWARAN SINGH TO THAT EFFECT. ON WORKING OUT LINE OF CONTROL, GOP NEGOTIATORS HAD REFUSED TO BE PUSHED AROUND EVEN ON DETAILS ALTHOUGH THEY KNEW THAT IT WOULD DELAY WITHDRAWAL OF INDIAN TROOPS. LIKEWISE, ON RETURN OF POWS, GOP HAD REFUSED TO BOW TO GOI DEMAND FOR PRIOR RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH. QUOTING APPRECIATIVE INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORTS, HE DID A BIT OF CROWING OVER GOP'S OVERALL DIPLOMATIC GAINS. IN CONCLUSION, HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT VICTORY OF SIMLA AGREEMENT WAS VICTORY FOR ALL THREE NATIONS RATHER THAN ANY ONE OF THEM.

9. PREDICTING EARLY NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS IN SUB-CONTINENT, AHMED STRESSED THAT NOT ONLY GOP BUT ALSO INDIA WANTS DURABLE PEACE AND NORMALIZATION. (HE ENDED THIS PART OF HIS PRESENTATION, HOWEVER, WITH WARNING OF NEED FOR VIGILANCE IN FACE OF INCREASED MILITARY SUPPLIES TO INDIA FROM SOVIET UNION). HE SAW EXCHANGE OF PERSONS UNDER DELHI AGREEMENT PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY, AND PREDICTED THAT 80,000 BENGALEES WILL HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED BY END DECEMBER. HE CLAIMED BDG WAS HAVING TROUBLE WITH FACILITIES FOR MOVEMENT OF NON-BANGALEES BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS PROBLEM HAD BEEN RESOLVED. HE SAID GOP CONTINUED BE DISATTISFIED WITH RATE OF POW RETURN FROM INDIA BUT NOTED THAT GOI WILL SEND ONE TRAINLOAD PER DAY FOR FIVE DAYS BEGINNING DECEMBER 21 AND HOPED THIS GOOD OMEN FOR FUTURE. DEPARTING FROM PREPARED TEXT, HE PREDICTED THAT QUESTION OF RETURN OF THE 195 POWS EAR-MARKED FOR WAR CRIMES TRIALS WOULD SOON BE SOLVED. RETURNING TO TEXT, HE ADDED THAT, IN ANY CASE, PROVISIONS OF SIMLA AGREEMENT PROVIDED A GOP VETO. AHMED ALSO WAS HOPEFUL THAT NORMLAIZATION OF REALTIONS WITH BANGLADESH WOULD PROCEED APACE, SAYING THAT CONDITIONS FOR PAK RECOGNITION HAD VIRTUALLY BEEN MET: AGREEMENT THAT ALL PRISONERS WOULD BE REPATRIATED, THAT NO PRISONER WOULD BE TRIED BY GANGLADESH, AND THAT PERSECUTION OF PATRIOTIC ELEMENTS IN BANGLADESH WOULD STOP. HE REFERRED TO RECENT
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BDG GENERAL AMNESTY FOR COLLABORATORS AS STEP IN THIS DIRECTION AND PREDICTED THAT "IT WOULD NOW BE REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT THERE WOULD BE AGREEMENT SOON ON THE REPATRIATION OF THE REMAINING 195."

10. ON KASHMIR, AHMED SAID THAT SIMLA AGREEMENT ITSELF RECOGNIZED EXISTENCE OF KASHMIR DISPUTE AND DID NOT RULE OUT RECOURSE TO UN FOR SETTLEMENTM PAKISTAN CONTINUED TO STAND FOR SELF-DETERMINATION, HE SAID, AND DISPUTE MUST BE "RESOLVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF KASHMIR AS FREELY EXPRESSED AND IMPARTIALLY ASCERTAINED."

11. COMMENT: KICKING OFF MAJOR DEBATE ON BHUTTO GOVERNMENT'S CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY, AHMED
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
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